

- 5 -

Remarks

The present response is to the Office Action mailed in the above referenced case on October 17, 2005. Claims 1-16 are presented below for examination. Claims 1-3, 5-12, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Alley et al. (U.S. 5,710,922), hereinafter Alley. Claims 4, 13 and 16 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected claim, but have been indicated by the Examiner as reciting patentable subject matter.

Applicant has carefully studied the prior art reference provided by the Examiner, the Examiner's rejections and statements of the instant Office Action.

In response to the merit rejections applicant amends independent claim 1 and 9 to recite the patentable limitations of claims 3-4 and claim 13 respectively. Claims 3-4 and 13 are accordingly canceled. The applicant, however, makes no admission of unpatentability of the unamended claims, and reserves the right to file the same or similar claims in new applications in the future.

Applicant's independent claims 1 and 13, as amended to include the subject matter indicated by the Examiner as allowable, are now patentable over the prior art presented by the Examiner. Depending claims 2, 5-8, 10-12 and 14-16 are now patentable on their own merits in their original form, or at least as depended from a patentable claim.

It is therefore respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered, the claims be allowed, and that this case be passed quickly to issue. If there are any time extensions needed beyond any extension specifically requested with this amendment, such extension of time is hereby requested. If there are any fees due beyond any fees paid with this amendment, authorization is given to deduct such fees from deposit account 50-0534.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sin-Mei Tsai et al.

By Donald R. Boys
Donald R. Boys
Reg. No. 35,074

Central Coast Patent Agency
P.O. Box 187
Aromas, CA 95004
(831) 726-1457